

Rep. Ryan Congratulates Frank Ruggiero on Appointment

Youngstown Native now Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) commended the appointment of Frank Ruggiero – Youngstown native and Ursuline High School graduate – as the acting special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Richard C. Holbrooke, the previous special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, passed away on Monday from complications from a torn aorta.

Previously the top civilian official in southern Afghanistan, Ruggiero helped manage the plan to increase the number of non-military experts providing reconstruction and social service assistance to Afghan leaders. By installing him as Holbrooke's successor, the Administration will tap directly into Ruggiero's expertise in the political-military affairs of Afghanistan and the Middle East.

"Our community continues to produce America's best and brightest," stated Congressman Ryan.

□ **"Frank Ruggiero is the most recent in a long line of successful natives – including CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, top college football coaches and professional athletes, astronauts, musicians, and now a high-ranking diplomat.□ Our children should not think for one second that they cannot achieve any position that is available – Frank Ruggiero has spent his career successfully navigating the complex waters of international relations, and as a result has been tapped to continue the exemplary work of his predecessor.□ Mr. Ruggiero is very deserving of this honor, and I wish him luck and in**

his new position.”

#